



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Natchitoches man sentenced on charge of filing false public documents

BATON ROUGE - A Natchitoches man was sentenced yesterday in the 19th Judicial District Court on three felony counts of filing false public documents with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Nathan Redwine, 61, was sentenced by 19th Judicial District Court Judge Bonnie Jackson to a suspended sentence of three years imprisonment, with five years of supervised probation. He was also fined \$3,000.00. Special conditions of Redwine's probation state that he is not to engage in any job that requires a professional license or certificate; and within 60 days, he is to place a 1/8 page advertisement in the major newspapers in Shreveport, Natchitoches and Baton Rouge stating that he was convicted of filing false statement and he misrepresented himself as an engineer. In addition, he must perform 250 hours of community service.

Redwine was arrested by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality criminal investigators in April 2009 for filing false public documents to DEQ. Three Title V air permit applications were submitted to DEQ and signed by Redwine as a Professional Engineer. DEQ regulations require that all Title V air permit applications be reviewed and signed by a Professional Engineer. A joint investigation by DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division, the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division and the Louisiana Professional Engineering & Land Surveying Board revealed that Redwine was not a Professional Engineer.

"Recently, DEQ has investigated an increasing number of criminal cases involving the filing of false public documents. Last week, Andre Franklin was sentenced in Jefferson Parish for false statements relating to Louisiana's waste tire recycling fund. Nathan Redwine's sentencing in Baton Rouge marks the second conviction in as many weeks. DEQ-CID will aggressively pursue individuals and companies who intentionally make false statements to the department," said Jeffrey T. Nolan, Manager of DEQ-CID.

"Accurate information is essential for federal, state and local governments to assure compliance with environmental regulations," said Ivan Vikin, Special Agent in Charge of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement office for the Louisiana region. "In this case, the defendant not only filed false inspection reports and assessments, he also lied about his credentials. That led his client companies to submit false documents to the state without realizing it. Violators who submit false reports or bogus data undermine our efforts to protect the public and the environment and they will be vigorously prosecuted."

The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Hillar Moore and Assistant District Attorney Brandon Fremin.